

Docket No.: 4444-044

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. *(Original)* Device for treating at least one surface of an object, having a first input for receiving objects coming from a loader intended to contain a plurality of such objects, a second input, distinct from the first input, for receiving objects supplied individually by a user of the device, and including at least one operating chain having an input intended to receive objects from the first and second inputs of the device, each operating chain including at least one operating station capable of carrying out an action on a surface of said object, said device characterised in that the first and second inputs of the device are situated either side of the operating chain, the device being provided with routing means for routing to the input of the operating chain an object introduced into the device through its second input.
2. *(Original)* Treatment device according to Claim 1, characterised in that it includes a single operating chain including a succession of operating stations.
3. *(Currently amended)* Treatment device according to ~~either of Claims~~ Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that the action that at least one operating station is capable of carrying out can be previously inhibited or enabled by programming.
4. *(Currently amended)* Treatment device according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~, characterised in that, the operating chain being provided with drive means making it possible to move the objects from its input to an output of said operating chain, said drive means are capable of being configured in a reverse working mode in which they make it possible to move the objects from the output to the input of the operating chain, and in that the second input of the device is disposed facing said output of the operating chain, the routing means being formed by said drive means configured in reverse working mode.

Docket No.: 4444-044

PATENT

5. *(Currently amended)* Treatment device according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader is movable, the treatment device being provided with movement means for controlling a movement of said movable part of the second wall enabling an adjustment of the size of said opening.
6. *(Currently amended)* A treatment device according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall P1 intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall P2 intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, the loader includes a slider block CLS capable of moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being intended to be disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including regulation means intended to keep substantially constant the force exerted on that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.
7. *(Original)* Treatment device according to Claim 6, characterised in that the regulation means include a spring disposed parallel to the second direction and connected to a first and a second articulation respectively arranged between first and second rods, on the one hand, and third and fourth rods, on the other hand, ends of the first and second rods being connected by hinge joints to first and second guide channels respectively arranged in the loader and the slider block, and ends of the third and fourth rods being connected by hinge joints to fixed points respectively arranged in the loader and the slider block.
8. *(Currently amended)* Treatment device according to Claim 1 ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a

Docket No.: 4444-044PATENT

first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also includes spacing means intended to move in the first direction that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall in order to move it away from said first wall in order to make, between said object and said first wall, a storage space capable of at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.

9. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 2, characterised in that the action that at least one operating station is capable of carrying out can be previously inhibited or enabled by programming.

10. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 2, characterised in that, the operating chain being provided with drive means making it possible to move the objects from its input to an output of said operating chain, said drive means are capable of being configured in a reverse working mode in which they make it possible to move the objects from the output to the input of the operating chain, and in that the second input of the device is disposed facing said output of the operating chain, the routing means being formed by said drive means configured in reverse working mode.

11. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 3, characterised in that, the operating chain being provided with drive means making it possible to move the objects from its input to an output of said operating chain, said drive means are capable of being configured in a reverse working mode in which they make it possible to move the objects from the output to the input of the operating chain, and in that the second input of the device is disposed facing said output of the operating chain, the routing means being formed by said drive means configured in reverse working mode.

Docket No.: 4444-044

PATENT

12. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 2, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader is movable, the treatment device being provided with movement means for controlling a movement of said movable part of the second wall enabling an adjustment of the size of said opening.

13. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 3, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader is movable, the treatment device being provided with movement means for controlling a movement of said movable part of the second wall enabling an adjustment of the size of said opening.

14. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 4, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader is movable, the treatment device being provided with movement means for controlling a movement of said movable part of the second wall enabling an adjustment of the size of said opening.

15. (New) A treatment device according to Claim 2, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall P1 intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall P2 intended to prevent motion of said objects in a

Docket No.: 4444-044

PATENT

second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, the loader includes a slider block CLS capable of moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being intended to be disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including regulation means intended to keep substantially constant the force exerted on that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.

16. (New) A treatment device according to Claim 3, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall P1 intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall P2 intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, the loader includes a slider block CLS capable of moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being intended to be disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including regulation means intended to keep substantially constant the force exerted on that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.

17. (New) A treatment device according to Claim 4, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall P1 intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and with a second wall P2 intended to prevent motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening intended to be passed through by an object, the loader includes a slider block CLS capable of moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being intended to be disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including regulation means intended to keep substantially constant the force exerted on that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.

Docket No.: 4444-044

PATENT

18. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 2, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also includes spacing means intended to move in the first direction that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall in order to move it away from said first wall in order to make, between said object and said first wall, a storage space capable of at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.

19. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 3, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also includes spacing means intended to move in the first direction that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall in order to move it away from said first wall in order to make, between said object and said first wall, a storage space capable of at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.

20. (New) Treatment device according to Claim 4, characterised in that, the loader being provided with a first wall intended to prevent motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also includes spacing means intended to move in the first direction that one of the objects contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall in order to move it away from said first wall in order to make, between said object and said first wall, a storage space capable of at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.